GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1534
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
CONVERSION OF SEA WATER INTO POTABLE WATER
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government have receltly conducted any study to convert the sea water into potable water with a view to augment supply of drinking water;

(b): if so, the details thereof; and

(c): if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. This Ministry has not conducted any study to convert sea water into potable water with a view to augment the supply of drinking water. However the Government of Kerala has informed that a study was conducted to convert sea water into potable water with a view to augment the supply of drinking water and it has been found that the same is not economical. A case study shows that the cost of purification of sea water comes to approximately 10 times that of normal purification of river water. The Government of Tamil Nadu on the other hadn has accorded administrative sanction for installation of a 3.6 mld capacity desalination plant at Narippaiyur in Ramanatha Puram district to cover 296 rural habitations at a total cost of Rs.55.00 crores. The plant is now in operation.

The U.T. Administration of Andaman & Nicobar has informed that Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute studiedand installed one 5 cum capacity electrodialysis deslination plant at Port Blair for demonstration which is being utilised by the Electricity Department. Subsequently, one desalination plant of 20 MT capacity was installed at Chowra, where no surface/ground water source is available. The Plant is providing good quality water.